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III. NOTES ON COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES

Filipino Students in the United States.—The first report to the Bureau of Insular Affairs, of Wm. A. Sutherland, the Agent in charge of Filipino students in the United States, reviews the early results of the measure passed in August of last year, by the Philippine Commission, for the education of a number of Filipinos in the United States at the expense of the Insular government. This act has already been noted in a previous number of the Annals. The boys were carefully selected from thirty-three provinces by examination, both mental and physical, English being one of the studies in which they were obliged to have good grades.

Great enthusiasm throughout the Philippines was aroused by the sending of these students to America and many attentions were shown them both at their home towns and in Manila before embarking. A special operatic performance was given in their honor, and on the morning of their departure, a meeting was held at which addresses were made by Governor Taft, Commissioners Smith and Tavera, and prominent Filipinos, after which they marched to the wharf in a body, to the music of half a dozen brass bands, and accompanied by civic organizations and thousands of citizens.

Ninety-six students embarked October 10, 1903, and reached San Francisco, November 9, leaving on the 11th for Southern California, where they remained for the winter. They were distributed among the public schools of the southern counties.

It was thought best not to subject them to the rigors of a northern winter at once, but during the present summer they are to be brought to the Middle States.

The report concludes with the following language: "It is especially desired to call the attention of the educational authorities of the Philippine Islands to the necessity, in the selection of students to be sent to America, for exercising the greatest care. The standard set by those who have already come to America should be upheld; the exceedingly favorable impression created by the members of the first expedition, without exception, should not be impaired. The Filipino students now here are cited continually by parents and by teachers to their young American associates as models of gentleness, thoughtful politeness, studiousness, and of seriousness of purpose. Right here I desire to say that no other class of Filipinos whom I have known have in any degree compared with the Filipino students sent to America, in their appreciation and gratitude for the benefits conferred upon them, for the forbearance and patience shown them, and the opportunities offered them for progress, by the government. I have reports from their teachers and housekeepers at every place, that the danger is not that they will study too little, but that they will study too much. They were uniformly successful in the examinations held by their schools just prior to the holidays, despite their late entrance to the schools and the short time that

they have been studying their texts in English. They are all working with splendid seriousness for the accomplishment of the lofty purposes for which they are in this country, and I only ask that as good material be furnished in the future; that not one young man or young woman in whom the fullest confidence may not be placed, and whom fitness, mental and physical, is not of the very highest order, be sent by the government for education in the United States. There is no scarcity of such material and if it be sent, I feel that there can be no question as to the final result."

The Anglo-French Colonial Agreement.—A series of conventions, which for their importance in the colonial world, are second only to those governing the delimitation of the spheres of influence in Africa, were signed between the British and French Governments on April seventh of the present year. A number of vexatious colonial questions have disturbed the relations of the two countries for several decades. The most important of these are the status of England in Egypt, the French relations with Morocco, the exact control exerted by Great Britain over the Suez Canal, the French rights on the Newfoundland fishing shore, the serious injury wrought by the French government on British commercial interests in Madagascar and the limitation of the French sphere of influence in the neighborhood of West Africa. These questions have never been satisfactorily settled, a condition which has on several occasions threatened to interrupt the friendly intercourse between the two countries. The present agreement comprises three conventions, in each of which a bargain is struck in the shape of a compromise fairly satisfactory to both parties. The first balances the Morocco question against the status of Egypt, and is probably the most important of the three. The British position in Egypt has, for years, been an extremely delicate and difficult one, the British representative, Lord Cromer, being merely an adviser of the Khedive in name, but a Prime Minister in reality. It is well known that the re-organization of the Egyptian army, the establishment of a more tolerable system of taxation, the re-habilitation of the financial budget, and the commencement of an immense system of irrigation works, based on the great Nile dam at Assouan, have been primarily the results of Lord Cromer's initiative. In all of these undertakings, however, he has been obliged to work indirectly and with great slowness. The Public Debt Commission, composed of a large number of international representatives of various European creditor nations, has frequently interfered with the British plans and required that all surplus income be retained in the public treasury as a reserve fund. The new Anglo-French convention will enable a fund of millions, accumulated under British administration of Egyptian affairs, to be used for railways and irrigation works in the internal development of the country. France also formally withdraws her repeated protests against British supremacy in Egypt and thereby removes the greatest obstacle to complete British control of that country. In return for this important concession Great Britain is to guarantee the neutrality of the Suez Canal and France is to have freedom from British interference in Morocco.

During the last five years rumors have repeatedly circulated that the French

were intriguing in Morocco with a view to establishing a protectorate and fortifying a point between Tangier and Ceuta, thereby sharing in the control of the entrance to the Mediterranean at Gibraltar. This rumored plan is now abandoned, but the more substantial concession of French control of the entire country of Morocco, subject, of course, to possible objections from Spain or other European countries, is gained. It should be pointed out regarding this first convention that both England and France in their respective enterprises in Egypt and Morocco, may still encounter strong opposition from other European countries, notably from Russia and Germany. The German government is already reported as preparing to take a firm stand regarding German interests in Morocco, while it is by no means certain that Russia and Austria will consent to undisputed British control of Egypt.

The other conventions relate to a recognition of the French position in Annam and the Siamese border, the early extinguishment of the French fishing claims in Newfoundland, a measure which has long been pressed by the Newfoundland government, and the abandonment of the British attempts to restrain the protectionist policy in Madagascar hitherto pursued by France. When the French protectorate over Madagascar was declared, representations were made by France to foreign governments to the effect that foreign trade interests in Madagascar would be safeguarded. In consideration of this fact, a general recognition of French suzerainty followed, which, however, was very reluctantly renewed after the protectorate was abolished and Madagascar became a simple possession or colony of France. The British trade interests, which were large, immediately experienced the restrictive effects of French influence, and a series of protests had been lodged with the French government in consequence. The present convention is designed to mark the final settlement of this dispute.

Revolt in German Southwest Africa.—On the twelfth of January, the native tribe, known as the Hereros, in German Southwest Africa rose in insurrection, surrounded several of the principal European settlements, and destroyed the telegraph and railway communications with the coast. Over fifty settlers and officials were massacred in different parts of the colony, and many more are missing. The exact cause of the uprising has not been determined, although the German press has published numerous letters from settlers in the colony, giving various explanations. The ground assigned by most of the writers is the dishonest and extortionate and oppressive practices resorted to by various traders in traveling through the country. These statements are confirmed by the evidence given by missionaries. It is declared that native discontent has been steadily growing for a considerable time, and the wide extent of the insurrection, together with its simultaneous outbreak at different points, would seem to bear out this view. A small force of about three hundred soldiers was posted at different points in the colony, and additional forces were early brought to the scene of hostilities by the gunboat "Habicht." These were dispatched from Swakopmund, the principal seaport of the colony, into the interior and succeeded, after repeated attempts, in relieving many of the principal towns which

were besieged by the natives. The Hereros by the success of their early attacks obtained considerable quantities of ammunition, numerous rifles, and large herds of cattle. It is believed that they were also secretly supplied with guns and ammunition purchased from the portugese. Although losing heavily in each conflict they were thus able to inflict severe losses upon the European forces sent against them. A re-enforcement of eight hundred cavalry and two battalions of artillery has been dispatched to the colony from Berlin, but it is doubted whether this aid will prove adequate.

The Hereros, though undisciplined and without proper leaders, show the greatest courage and obstinancy in repelling the advance of the German troops, and the casualties on the German side have already reached serious proportions. In Germany the insurrection has produced a most painful impression. The opposition in the Reichstag has made ample use of the occasion to point out the weakness of the German settlements in Africa, and the mistakes which have been made in the treatment of the natives. The German Colonial Society, however, has started a fund for the purpose of relieving the distress existing in the colony, and for the collection of supplies for the troops.

The outbreak has served to revive somewhat the discussion of German policy in Africa. Public opinion is still fairly divided as to the advisability of continuing the present plans for encouraging emigration to Africa; it is observed that only those fitted by experience for agricultural pursuits should be sent, as other elements only weaken the colonies, and discourage, by their failure, the emigration of more desirable settlers.